Year	SCA Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	1745.47
1996-97	1448.87
1997-98	1922.45

(c) It has helped particularly in the economic development of SC families below the poverty line. During the last three years 3.54 lakh SC families have been economically assisted under various economic development schemes implemented under Special Component Plan.

(d) The Government provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs for implementing various welfare programmes for SCs in Maharashtra:

(1) Share Capital Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporation.

(2) Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ ST students.

(3) Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in unclean occupation.

(4) Boys Hostel for SC Students.

(5) Girls Hostel for SC Students.

(6) Coaching & Allied Schemes.

(7) Book Banks.

(8) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependence.

Besides, grant-in-aid is given direct to voluntary Organisations for implementing various welfare programmes for SCs in Maharashtra.

National Policy on Welfare of Elders

3600. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to evolve a national policy on welfare of elders in view of about 11 crores elders above the age of 60 years residing in the country; and

(b) the action plans to provide affordable health care facilities to elders under welfare programmes in the international year of elder persons declared by UN i.e., 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir, a draft National Policy for Older Persons is being finalised after consultation with experts and leading voluntary agencies working in this area.

(b) Health care is one of the components of the draft National Policy for Older Persons. As a part of this Ministry's ongoing Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for programmes relating to Aged, financial assistance is provided to Voluntary Organisations for inter alia, operating & maintaining Mobile Medicare Units for Elders. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing primary health care facilities through Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centre. Specialist Medical facilities are available in sub-district Hospitals. Health needs of ageing people are also being addressed through the National Health Scheme especially, the National Programmes for Control of Blindness under which mostly old people are beneficiaries. Besides, various medical insurance schemes are available.

National Trust for People with Mental Retardation

3601. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Trust for people with mental retardation has since been set up: